

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated December 16, 2003 in reference to the above-identified application. The Examiner set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months, making the present Amendment due by March 16, 2003. Filed concurrently herewith is a request for a one-month extension of time so that the present Amendment is on or before April 16, 2004.

At the outset, the Examiner will please note that appropriate correction has been made to the specification to address the objections set forth in the office action. In making these corrections, Applicant has attached hereto a Replacement Sheet for sheet 4 of the figures showing Figures 10 and 11. In the Replacement Sheet, Figure 10 has been amended to now show angle "a", which is discussed on page 18 of the specification.

In the Office Action, claims 1-12, 14-20, and 22-35 are pending. Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 30-33. Claims 1-12, 14, 17-20, 22, 25-29, 34 and 35 have been rejected over one or more of the cited references either under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b), 102(e), or 103(a). Claims 15, 16, 23, and 24 have been objected to, but would be allowed if rewritten into independent form.

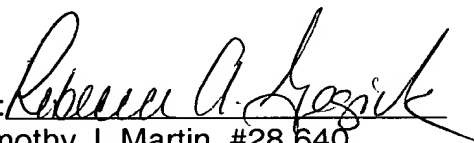
Without conceding the Examiner's position with respect to the rejected claims, and so as to expedite allowance of this case, Applicant has cancelled all the claims that have been rejected or that were objected to by the Examiner. Accordingly, only those claims the Examiner stated were allowed, claims 30-33, remain pending in the application.

No additional claims fees are believed to be payable upon the Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the required fees, or to credit any overpayment, to deposit account number 13-1940.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is in complete condition for allowance, and action to that end is courteously solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved prior to the granting of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

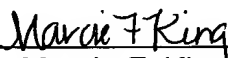
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that the foregoing **AMENDMENT (11 pages), REQUEST FOR ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME (2 pages), and CHECK NO. 18252 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55.00** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 29th day of March, 2004.



Marcie F. King